

Selfridge Field ,  
Building #1025,(Telephone Building) (Communications Facility)  
Doolittle Drive north of D Street  
~~Harrison Township~~-Mt. Clemens Vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-MM

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCLE.V,  
1MM-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE  
1709 JACKSON STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCLE.V,  
1MM-

SELFRIDGE FIELD, HAER No. MI-116-MM  
BUILDING #1025 (TELEPHONE BUILDING)  
(Communications Facility)

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: Doolittle Road between C Street and D Street  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,  
Macomb County, Michigan

Quad/UTM: U.S.G.S. New Haven Quadrangle, Universal  
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
17.349240.4720800

Date of Construction: 1964 (modified, date unknown)

Present Owner: Air National Guard  
3500 Fetchet Avenue  
Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland 20762

Present Use: Telephone Maintenance Support

Significance: The Telephone Building served an important role in assisting communications between the NORAD complex, which was self contained and isolated from the rest of the base for functional and security reasons. Building #1025 is one of the utilitarian structures erected to serve the complex and was situated adjacent to Building #1050, the command center for the NORAD complex. The significance of the building is best defined as a contributing structure to the entire NORAD installation. As a regional command and control center for NORAD, responsible for protection of the Great Lakes region, the NORAD district was of exceptional importance in national defense strategy during the Cold War era.

Historian: William E. Rutter  
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
May, 1996

## II. HISTORY

This "Telephone Building" was erected in 1964 from designs provided by the Air Force Air Defense Command Installations.<sup>1</sup> It was gutted during the 1970s and converted into a general maintenance facility including storage space and office areas.<sup>2</sup>

## III. DESCRIPTION

This building is a rectangular plan, 24 foot 8 inch by 50 foot deep, single-story, steel frame and concrete block building that rests on a concrete slab foundation and is sheathed in vertical metal panels. A metal fascia runs up to the built up flat roof.

The principal (east) elevation is composed of a vehicular entry contains a steel overhead door that is flanked to the north by a steel pedestrian entry door. The north elevation lacks fenestration except for two steel louvered vents near the fascia at the northeast and northwest corners. The west elevation is pierced only by a steel pedestrian entry door while the south elevation lacks any

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<sup>1</sup>Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Civil Engineers Office

<sup>2</sup>Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995

fenestration.

The interior is open space that was divided into functional areas by equipment positions. The southeast corner was the Power Plant area containing back up battery power, telephone main frames occupied most of the rest of the building except for a test board area along the north wall and a latrine in the northeast corner of the building inside the pedestrian access door. The building was gutted for conversion into its current telephone maintenance and support role and the floor plan today consists of open work space with two offices at the western wall that support a small storage balcony above. The toilet remains in the northeast corner, partitioned off by frame walls. The primary alteration in this building is the addition of the large vehicular access door on the facade.

### III. BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### A. BOOKS

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

\_\_\_\_\_, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

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B. PLANS

Copy of construction drawing, dated November 17, 1961, Department of the Air Force, Air Defense Command Installations, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. FLOOR PLAN, SITE PLAN.

C. INTERVIEWS

Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.